

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTI-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9263

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19837

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, TH

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PANAM FLIGHT APPLICATION

REF: STATE 27446

1. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO PANAM FILED FORMAL REQUEST WITH RTG FOR AUTHORIZATION RESUME FLIGHTS 841/842. REQUEST WAS QUICKLY DENIED. UPON INSTRUCTIONS FROM NEW YORK PANAM LOCAL REP WAS INSTRUCTED APPLY YET ANOTHER TIME. HE IN TURN ASKED FOR EMBASSY SUPPORT REAPPLICATION. ECON COUNSELOR DISCUSSED MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SAKON WHO IS MEMBER RTG INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE AND MEMBER CIVAIR NEGOTIATING TEAM. COUNSELOR EMPHASIZED RTG APPROVAL FLIGHTS WOULD BE EXPRESSION GOOD WILL AND SET POSITIVE TONE FOR NEXT ROUND AIR NEGOTIATIONS. ALSO INFORMED SAKON USG APPROVAL AIR SIAM REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE MODIFICATION LIKELY AND RTG SHOULD MAKE RECIPROCAL GESTURE. SAKON AGREED AND ASSURED COUNSELOR HE WOULD STRONGLY SUPPORT PANAM REQUEST.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, CHIEF THAI NEGOTIATOR SIRILAK OF THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY REMAINS ADAMANT IN REFUSING TO CONSIDER RENEWED APPLICATION, CONTENDING HE NEEDED BAR-GAINING COUNTERS FOR NEXT ROUND TALKS.

3. WE ARE NOT SURPRISED BY THAI REFUSAL NOR IS PANAM REP
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WHO TOLD DCM HE MUCH APPRECIATED ECON COUNSELOR'S FINE SUPPORT AND

SAID HE WAS ONLY GIVING IT THE "OLD COLLEGE TRY"
ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM HOME OFFICE.

4. OBVIOUSLY PROMPT CAB ACTIONS ON AIR SIAM REQUEST WOULD
BE HELPFUL IN ESTABLISHING FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR NEXT
NEGOTIATING ROUND. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATIONS, EMBOFF HAS MENTIONED WITHOUT ELABORATION
POSSIBILITY SOME DELAY IN RESUMPTION TALKS BECAUSE OF
COMPLICATIONS IN TWA/PAA ROUTE SWAP NEGOTIATIONS. RTG
OFFICIALS NON-COMMITTAL BUT ASKED TO BE KEPT INFORMED.
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Message Attributes

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